www.thekabultimes.com twitter.com/thekabultimes info@thekabultimes.com facebook.com/thekabultimes

The KABUL TIMES DAILY

Founded in 1962

Saratan 21-1404 Saturday 12 July 2025 INo: 88-Vol: LXII

Kabul 33° Sunny | Kandahar 38° Sunny | Herat 32° Sunny | Jalalabad 38° Sunny | Mazar-e-Sharif 38° Sunny | Bamyan 24° Sunny

Prime Minister's statement regarding Afghan migrants' deportation from Iran

I extend my sincere gratitude to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their hospitality in hosting Afghan refugees over the course of the past four decades.

In light of the recent decision by the Government of Iran to deport Afghan nationals who do not possess valid legal residency documentation, we regard this as an exercise of the sovereign authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In accordance with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's responsibilities concerning Afghan refugees, we have consistently urged the Iranian authorities to ensure that the deportation process is implemented with gradualism, dignity, and in conformity with the principles of good neighborly relations.

This approach serves to both safeguard the rights of the refugees during deportation and enable relevant Afghan institutions to manage their resettlement in an organized and effective manner.

I urge the Iranian authorities to abstain from any actions that may infringe upon the rights or dignity of Afghan refugees during the deportation process. Refugees must be permitted to repatriate their movable property, and be given appropriate opportunity to settle matters concerning their immovable assets and financial accounts.

We further request that the Iranian authorities provide adequate facilities at refugee transit centers during the deportation process, in order to prevent the recurrence of hardships experienced by deportees in recent weeks especially under extreme heat conditions.

I express my sincere appreciation to the officials of the Islamic Emirate and to our esteemed nation for the services rendered to our returning compatriots. I pray to Allah Almighty to grant them continued success in their duties and immense reward.

In conclusion, I once again stress that the Iranian authorities should approach the deportation process with patience and gradualism, so as to prevent the emergence of resentment or hostility between the two brotherly nations.

Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Hanafi urges Iranian authorities to treat Afghan migrants with respect

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, urged the Iranian authorities to treat Afghan refugees with respect and in accordance with Islamic, humanitarian, and neighborly principles, Arg said in a statement the other day. Addressing a press conference held at the Government Media and Information Center regarding the return of Afghan refugees from neighboring countries, particularly Iran, Hanafi stated that the Islamic Emirate has taken effective steps in managing the return process, according to the statement. The Islamic Emirate has taken effective steps in managing the return process by providing services such as reception, registration, temporary shelter, food and drinking water, cash assistance, healthcare, and transportation, he said, adding "The government's future plans include access to education, employment opportunities, land allocation, and permanent housing for returnees." The deputy PM also said that Afghan traders and factory owners who wish to return will be provided land in industrial parks along with a five-year tax exemption and other facilities. He noted that 35 residential townships across 25 provinces have already been designated for returnees, covering over 140,000 acres of land and surveys, design, and topography of these areas have been completed, and distribution will be done through a transparent mechanism to eligible families. According to official data, more than half a million Afghan refugees have returned over the past months, with over 40,000 individuals entering daily through the Islam Qala and Pul-e-Abrisham border crossings.

The Kabul Times

Meeting held to follow up on issues raised with Central Asian countries on sidelines of ECO Summit

KABUL: A meeting was held with the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, on the chair, to follow up the issues raised during bilateral discussions held on the sidelines of the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) with the leaders of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan, the office of the deputy PM for economic affairs said in a statement the other day.

Following the discussions, specific tasks were assigned to the relevant ministries and agencies, and they were instructed to rigorously pursue their responsibilities and submit progress reports to the Deputy PM for the Economic Affairs Office within the designated timeframe, the statement said.

During the Beradar-led delegation to Azerbaijan, separate meetings were held with the leaders of several countries, on the sidelines of the 17th ECO Summit, where a range of topics were discussed concerning Afghanistan's political and economic relations with the mentioned countries.

The discussed topics included trade, transit, transportation, railway development, electricity, visa facilitation for Afghans, joint banking cooperation, and several other issues.

The Kabul Times

KSrelief provides thousands of returnees with food assistance at Omari Camp

JALALABAD: The Refugees and Repatriation Department of Nangarhar said in a statement the other day that thousands of returnees have been provided with food assistance by Tawhid Welfare Organization for Afghanistan Orphans (TWOAO) at the Omari Camp in the province.

The food distribution project, financially funded by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief), has been launched by Tawhid Welfare Organization for Afghanistan Orphans (TWOAO), providing returnees with food assistance nationwide, the statement said.

According to the statement, the food distribution project of 60,000 food packages worth $3,651,500, funded by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) will be implemented across the country.

The project will be implemented with the technical cooperation of the Tawhid Welfare Organization for Afghanistan Orphans (TWOAO), which will provide 60,000 deserving, poor, internally displaced, and returnee families from Pakistan and Iran with food packages in 34 provinces of the country. The first phase of the distribution of food packages has been launched at the Omari camp in Torkham , and it is determined that 5,000 food packages would be distributed to the returnee families in phases over the next few days. The opening ceremony at the Omari camp was attended by officials from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief), Omari camp officials, Nangarhar Refugee Affairs Director Haji Baz Mohammad Abdul Rahman, and other local officials, provincial director for refugees and repatriations said that each food package contained 50 kilograms of flour, 5 kg of rice, 5 kg of beans, 5.5 kg of sugar, and 6 liters of cooking oil, given to each family. It is worth mentioning that the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has implemented similar distribution of food packages projects in Afghanistan several times in the past. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) distribution of food packages comes at a time when thousands of Afghan families forcibly deported by Pakistan and Iran return home daily.

The Kabul Times

MoU worth $500 mln signed for Torghundi–Herat railway project

KABUL: Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, met with Murat Nurtileu, Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, at the Arg, where an investment Memorandum of Understanding for Torghundi–Herat railway project has been signed, Beradar's office said in a statement the other day.

The two sides discussed trade, transit, railway, banking, and economic cooperation, the statement said.

Speaking at the meeting, Beradaer Akhund described the relations between the two countries as positive and developing, and stated that the Islamic Emirate is working to expand cooperation with Kazakhstan in areas that contribute to Afghanistan's prosperity and development.

The Deputy PM assured the Kazakh side that Afghanistan, as an effective transit corridor, can facilitate the transmission of Kazakh energy to South Asia through its territory.

He also emphasized the importance of utilizing existing opportunities between the two countries, adding that both sides can collaborate in the sectors of mining, transportation, telecommunications, energy production, oil and gas, and infrastructure projects.

According to the statement, both sides discussed signing two agreements covering the preservation and quarantine of agricultural products between the two countries, increasing exports and imports via railway, and international freight and transport between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.

The agreements also include establishing joint cooperation in industrial, commercial, and transport sectors among Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan, opening major trade centers in both countries, and reducing transit fees, the statement said, adding that the implementation of the agreements could raise the volume of trade between the two countries to three billion USD.

Following this, Murat Nurtileu stated that Kazakhstan will continue its support for Afghanistan on the international stage and sees strong potential for joint cooperation and closer collaboration in various sectors. He expressed Kazakhstan's readiness to increase electricity exports to Afghanistan, facilitate the export of Afghan agricultural products to Kazakh markets, and allow Afghan banks to open accounts in Kazakhstan's Freedom and Zaman Banks.

The Kabul Times

Muttaqi, his Kazakh counterpart meet on strengthen bilateral ties, regional cooperation

KABUL: Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the country's acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Murat Nurtleu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, to discuss expanding bilateral relations and boosting regional collaboration, the ministry said in a statement Friday.

The two sides exchanged views on strengthening political, economic cooperation, utilizing regional opportunities, and advancing major transit projects, the statement said.

Muttaqi thanked Kazakhstan for its positive stance toward Afghanistan and voiced hope that constructive engagement between the two nations would grow into lasting cooperation built on mutual trust, according to the statement. Meanwhile, Nurtleu reaffirmed Kazakhstan's strong commitment to supporting Afghanistan through political, economic, and scientific collaboration.

He also emphasized his country's desire to play a positive role in Afghanistan's stability, transit development, food security, and overall progress.

The Kabul Times

Road crash claims lives of five members of a family in Badakhshan

FAIZABAD: Five members of a family, including a newlywed couple and a child, lost their lives in a traffic accident in the country's northeastern province of Badakhshan, the Ehsanullah Kamgar, spokesperson of the provincial police command, said Friday.

Kamgar stated that the accident occurred when a Toyota Corolla veered off the road and overturned near Pul-e-Tashkan on the Tashkan–Keshm highway, resulting in the tragic death of a newlywed couple and a child who were members of a family. Previously, due to poor road conditions, scores of people have lost their lives in similar traffic accidents across the province, highlighting the need for improved infrastructure and vehicle speed regulation, especially on the province's mountainous and challenging routes. **The Kabul Times**

International Daily

WWW.TheKabulTimes.com

Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202312509-(+93)766044966)
Graphic designers: Baktash, Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Recognition helps Afghanistan reach economic self-reliance

Restoring relations and interaction with the world has not only political significance for a country but also forms the basis for long-term economic change. Russia's recognition of the Islamic Emirate is such a historic moment that can be a bright tomorrow for Afghanistan's political stability, economic growth, and international status. This decision is a decisive and positive response to the ongoing difficult circumstances, as malicious countries are denying recognition of the Islamic system. Russia, one of the major powers in the region and the world, announcing official relations with the current government of Afghanistan is not only a political initiative but also a great economic opportunity. This step shows that major world players want to solve problems through interaction, not through isolation and sanctions. Therefore, the Afghan private sector, investors, and economic analysts evaluate this step by Russia as the beginning of a new economic chapter in the country's history. Considering Russia's strategic move, the recognition of the Islamic Emirate carries a positive message that the powerful countries of the region are ready to accept the reality of Afghanistan. This decision can serve as an example for other countries and show the world that interaction with Afghanistan is not only possible but also beneficial. The Afghan private sector considers Russia's move a historic opportunity for economic growth. Formal relations with a powerful country like Russia provide the basis for attracting large investments in energy, engineering, transport, agriculture, mining, and other sectors. Economic analysts emphasize that there is a direct relationship between political legitimacy and economic cooperation. Due to the wide distribution of resources, no country can rely solely on itself; therefore, mutual interaction and cooperation are necessary. Although the political positions of Western countries still show a certain degree of caution, this Russian move sends them a clear message that interaction with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is not only possible but also has positive and strong results based on mutual respect. The Russian initiative to recognize the Islamic Emirate inspires other countries. It will open the doors of political legitimacy, economic growth, and access to international markets for Afghanistan. This move will undoubtedly bring significant changes in the fields of investment, exports, employment, infrastructure projects, and international cooperation. If this trend continues and other countries also take inspiration from Moscow, Kabul will be able to strengthen its economy and introduce itself to the world as a self-reliant country.

No shelter, no justice: The silent crisis of Afghan deportees from Iran

In recent weeks, distressing reports and testimonies have emerged from Afghan migrants deported from Iran, painting a troubling picture of their humanitarian, social, and legal conditions.

Men, women, children, and the elderly have been collectively expelled—without prior notice and in a degrading manner—from a country that, for many, had become a second home.

Most were forced to return to Afghanistan without receiving their financial entitlements, without a chance to collect their belongings, and without any form of shelter or support.

Those who lived in Iran now report sudden expulsions, separation from family members, homelessness, and loss of livelihoods.

From the Islam Qala border to Zaranj, harrowing stories are told by women, men, and the elderly who were deported in the middle of the night—without access to basic necessities, and in some cases while ill or unwell.

Countless children, lacking identity documents, access to education, or proper care, now face grave risks alongside their helpless parents.

One of the most significant challenges is the inability of deported migrants to reclaim the money they paid as rental deposits for the homes they lived in.

Many Afghans had rented homes in Iran under the "rahn" (mortgage-based rental) system, but upon sudden expulsion, Iranian landlords have refused to return the advance payments.

These migrants have no legal recourse, either due to their undocumented status or because they were swiftly arrested and deported without due process.

This practice not only results in severe financial loss but also reflects the lack—or ineffectiveness—of a legal framework in Iran for the protection of Afghan migrants' rights.

The issue of Afghan migrants in Iran has evolved from a social or migration problem into a full-fledged humanitarian crisis.

This crisis includes several critical dimensions:

1. Arbitrary Deportations Without Legal Procedure

Migrants have been deported without going through legal or administrative procedures, without the opportunity to defend themselves or settle their affairs, and without

any guarantee of a safe return.

In many cases, families have been awakened in the middle of the night, arrested, and immediately expelled.

2. Inability to Reclaim Financial Entitlements

As mentioned earlier, thousands of Afghan migrants have invested large sums of money into housing or labor in Iran.

Many Afghan workers are owed months of unpaid wages, but due to sudden deportation, they never get the chance to collect their dues.

The systemic refusal of Iranian landlords and employers to repay Afghans has only fueled further poverty and resentment among the migrant population.

3. Disintegration of Family Units

In numerous cases, men and women have been separated. Children have been deported without their parents, and elderly individuals without caregivers.

This is not only psychologically devastating but also exposes vulnerable individuals to exploitation, human trafficking, and future violence.

Immediate and Practical Solutions

A. Strengthening Diplomatic and Legal Mechanisms

The Islamic Emirate should strengthen its consulates by deploying legal teams dedicated to defending the rights of Afghan migrants and pursuing their financial claims through proper legal channels.

B. Signing Bilateral Agreements for Migrant Protection

Through formal agreements with Iran, the deportation process must become more transparent, humane, and based on prior notification and mutual consent.

Deporting individuals without settling their financial entitlements or separating children from their families must be completely prohibited.

C. International Oversight and Monitoring

International organizations such as UNHCR and IOM must be present at border points to monitor deportations and provide emergency assistance, including shelter, healthcare, psychological counseling, and legal aid.

D. Establishing Emergency Support Centers at Border Crossings

Border areas such as Islam Qala, Milak, and Zaranj should host emergency support centers equipped with medical care, food, temporary accommodation, and social services to ensure deportees are not left homeless or destitute.

E. Documentation and International Advocacy

In collaboration with journalists and civil society organizations, instances of mistreatment and financial exploitation—such as withheld rental deposits and unpaid wages—must be systematically documented and brought to the attention of international human rights bodies.

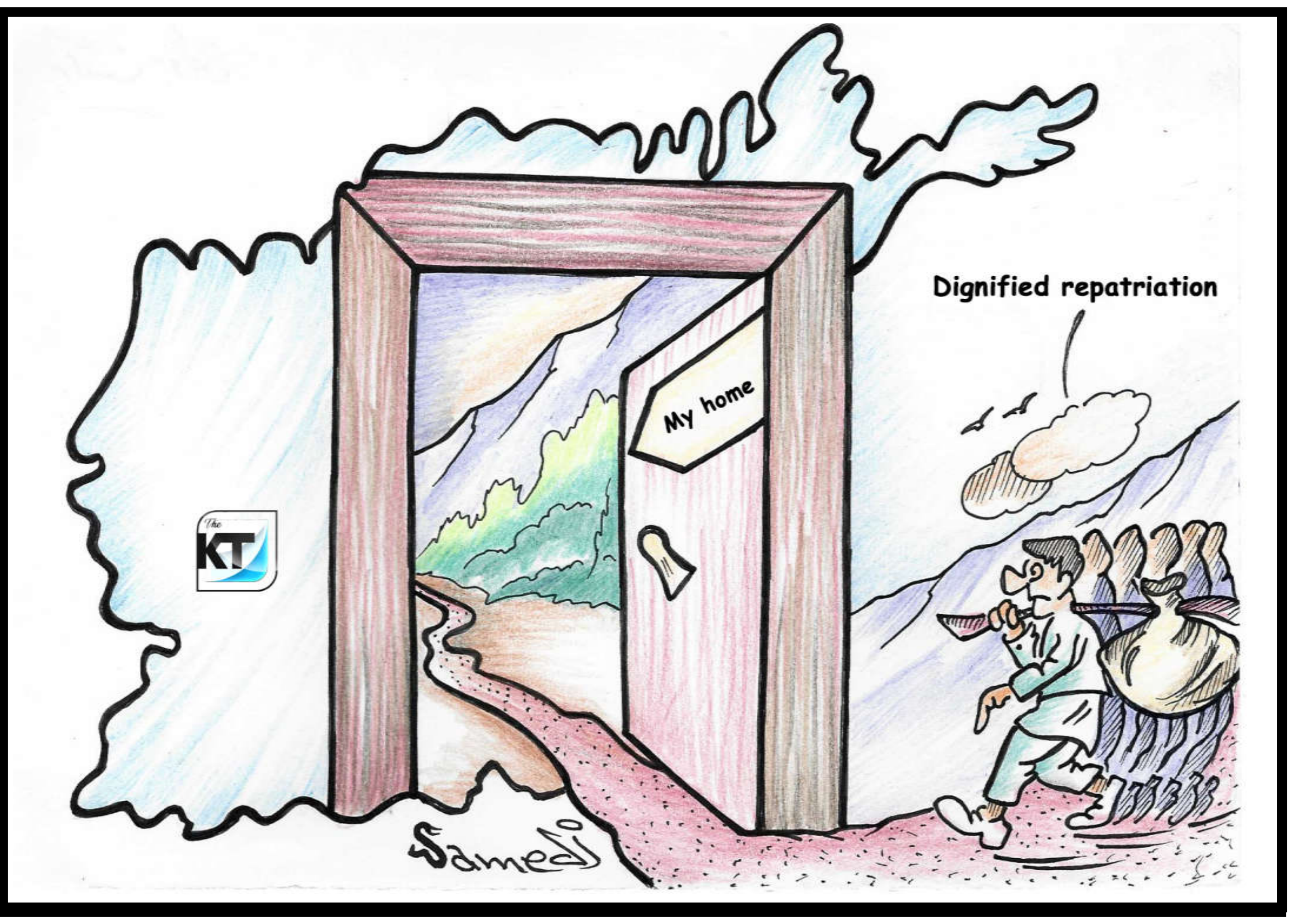
The crisis of Afghan migrants in Iran, particularly in light of recent deportations, requires an immediate, comprehensive response.

Regardless of their immigration status, Afghan migrants are human beings with dignity, rights, and basic needs.

Harsh deportations, carried out without the payment of financial dues and with the separation of families, are a clear violation of human rights and reflect an alarming humanitarian situation in the region.

Unless swift action is taken by the Afghan government, international agencies, and civil society, this crisis may escalate into a larger catastrophe—one for which the defenseless victims will bear the greatest cost.

Abdul Hai Nasiri



Widespread almond orchards in Uruzgan and a weak market

Almond is considered one of Afghanistan's most important and famous agricultural products.

It not only has high nutritional value for domestic consumption, but is also regarded as a major export product for international markets.

This nutritious nut is believed to help control blood sugar, support heart health, and enhance skin beauty.

According to doctors, almonds also strengthen the human immune system.

Several almond orchard owners in Uruzgan say that their almond trees have yielded better harvests compared to previous years, but the lack of market access has increased their concerns.

Two orchard owners, Sardar Wali and Bacha Agha Khairi, say that in recent times the almond market has significantly declined and is no longer covering the costs of their orchards.

Bacha Agha Khairi says, "We established almond orchards to meet the needs of our families.

We even buy wheat from the money we make selling almonds.

All our other household expenses are also covered by almond sales.

But now the harvest has no market; even if you take them to the market, they're just sitting there.

We have large stockpiles ourselves."

Sardar Wali adds, "Previously we sold them for 1900 Afghanis, but now they are not being sold at all.

Traders are sitting idle, and the entire market is full of almonds.

There used to be many buyers; now there are none."

Several traders in Uruzgan say that periodic road closures and lack of access to international markets have caused a significant drop in almond

prices.Trader Khan Mohammad explains, "The Pakistan routes are chaotic — sometimes open, sometimes shut due to conflicts.

This has caused a steep drop in almond prices."

At the same time, local officials say that almond yields this year have been better than previous years.

Maulavi Abdul Manan Farooqi, spokesperson for Uruzgan's Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock, says Uruzgan almonds are of high quality, and they are trying to find better markets for the produce.

He says this year, 23,960 metric tons of almonds were harvested from 5,990 hectares of orchards in Uruzgan.

"Uruzgan is one of the provinces with a strong almond market.

It's the only province in Afghanistan that produces high-quality almonds. We are trying to find a good market for them."

Meanwhile, health professionals say almond consumption is highly beneficial for health and recommend that people eat almonds daily.

Dr. Nematullah Siddiqi, a local physician, says almonds can reduce the risk of heart attacks.

"Almonds are a rich source of protein, vitamin E, magnesium, and fiber.

If consumed in small amounts daily, they can lower the risk of heart attacks, keep the mind sharp, and play an important role in strengthening bones."

Agricultural experts say that Uruzgan's climate is well-suited for almond cultivation, and landowners should consider growing almonds on their lands.Agricultural expert Abdul Hanan says that if almond orchards are expanded and proper markets are developed, farmers in the province can earn significant income from this crop. "Uruzgan's climate, soil, and natural conditions are perfectly aligned for almond cultivation.

With minimal expenses, high yields can be achieved.

If water resources are managed well, this province could become a major almond production hub for the entire country."

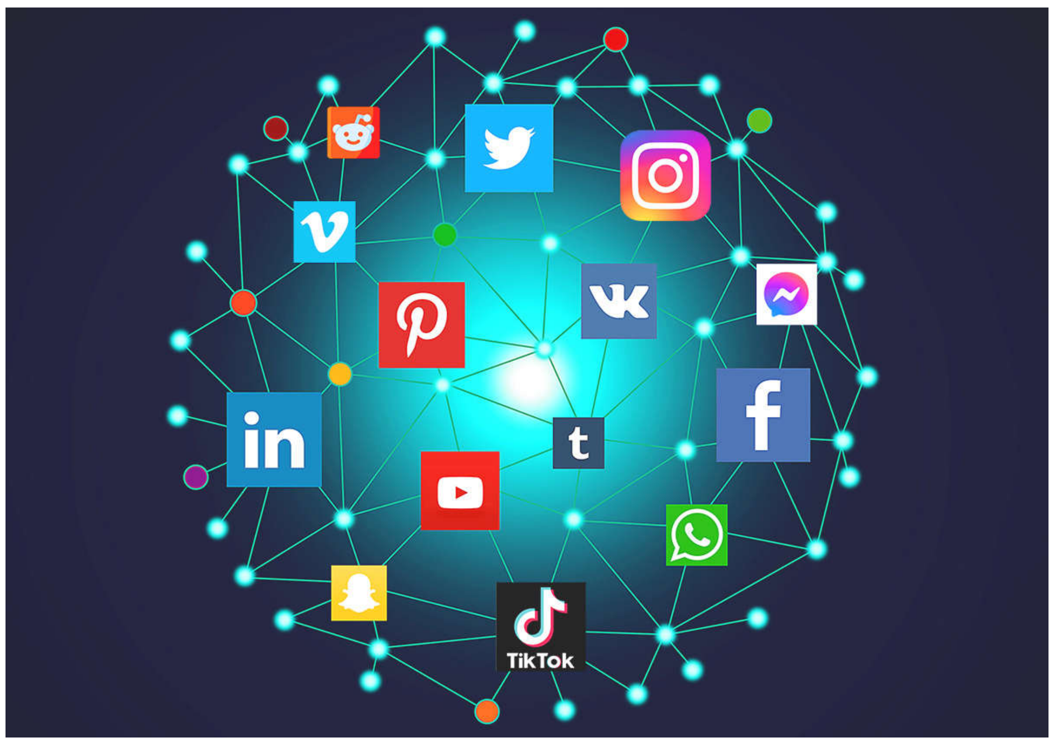
Uruzgan has numerous almond orchards, and its almonds hold a special reputation across Afghanistan.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

The negative impacts of social media on one's moral and personality

Social media has reinforced the idea that one should do what makes people happy in order to gain reputation.

This forces one to accept the demands of others instead of values. Some people make videos of pornography, come-



dy, dancing or other inappropriate actions just to attract the attention of others.

This has changed to a psychological need in which the wisdom cannot control.

This situation not only harms the individual, but also destroys the intellectual stability of society.

If people do not make decisions based on wisdom, then society will move towards destruction instead of a sound path, because if everyone only copy what others do, does not have their own thoughts and violates all kinds of morals for the sake of fame, then society will lose its moral foundation.

Wisdom wants that a person should protect his own values, not copy what others do, and should make his decisions based on his own thoughts, conscience, and desire for goodness.

Social media should be a tool for human thought, not a way to destroy personality.

Wisdom dictates that a person should choose what is good, pure, and honorable, not what makes people happy.

From the perspective of social life, social media has changed to a powerful tool for the dissemination of virtual content and false morality.

Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and X (formerly Twitter) have created social models in which people's interactions are dominated by appearances rather than real values.

People try to present their ways of lives in a way that impresses others, even though this has no connection to real life.

For example, someone who may have economical problems may post pictures of their journeys, new clothes, or expensive items on social media to somehow show that their life is free of problems.

This spiritual display of luxury somehow encourages others to do so, because they believe that if they don't, their social values will cut down.

This is a delicate and dangerous environment where imitation prevails over truth, and pretence over honesty.

Furthermore, the core values of human relationships, such as modesty, politeness, consultation, and genuine respect, have been affected, with people widely using the social media.

Previously, advise was sought in meetings with elders, dignitaries or in family circles.

Now people like the posts of unknown people for advice, or watch the videos of influencers, who only care about increasing their reputation, not improving the person they are talking to.

This change of spiritual life is damaging the social belief system. In the past, friendship was based on sincerity, respect, and mutual respect.

But now, 'friend' or 'follower' has become just a number. A person may have thousands of followers, but when a difficult or hard time comes, nobody will even ask or help.

These unreasonable expectations deeply hurt human feelings, and make people get rid of real relationships.

The idea of trends has also affected the formation of social identity.

These trends are often against morals, modesty, or religious values.

When society follows a trend, people lose to think independently.

See P4

A man-made crisis starves children in a well-fed world in Gaza

In a harrowing revelation, Dr. Munir Al-Bursh, Director-General of the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza, has raised alarm over an unprecedented surge in the number of children dying from hunger.

While global powers remain largely silent, the Israeli siege continues to strangle the Gaza Strip, cutting off access to food, medicine, and baby formula—turning Gaza into a graveyard for the youngest and most vulnerable.

Speaking to Al Jazeera, Dr. Al-Bursh confirmed that at least 66 children have died as a direct result of acute malnutrition, with the latest victim being a three-month-old infant named Jouri Al-Masri.

"The most vulnerable groups, especially children, are now at the forefront of the death toll," he said.

Gaza is facing a catastrophic famine, driven not by natural disaster, but by a man-made blockade imposed by the Israeli occupation.

The situation has reached a dire stage, exacerbated by the complete depletion of essential life-saving supplies.

In an official statement, Gaza's Government Media Office accused Israeli forces of deliberately maintaining the closure of border crossings and preventing the entry of infant formula and specialized nutritional supplements for children, newborns, and the sick.

So far, 244 people have died due to starvation, including 66 children, and the toll is expected to rise further amidst international inaction and complicity.

A recent global nutrition report paints an even grimmer picture:

90% of children aged 6 to 23 months, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women, are suffering from extreme food deprivation.

90% of children under five years old have contracted at least one infectious disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that around 112 children are hospitalized every day in Gaza due to malnutrition.

Dr. Al-Bursh referenced data from the World Food Security Program, revealing that 1.2 million Palestinians in Gaza are facing food insecurity.

Among them, 785,000 children lack access to healthy food, and 70,000 children are enduring severe malnutrition.

Since the border closures began, 8,923 malnutrition cases have been recorded among children, with over 1,000 of them at risk of imminent death.

He warned that a real opportunity to save these children still exists—but only if the crossings are reopened and therapeutic milk and medical supplies are immediately delivered to Gaza.

"If the milk doesn't enter," Dr. Al-Bursh stated sorrowfully, "their fate is death."

The occupation's refusal to allow baby formula into Gaza, he emphasized, is not a passive act of neglect but a tactic of slow, deliberate murder.

He cited the killing of a local doctor who was shot while searching for food for his children as evidence of Israel's ongoing attacks not just on supplies, but on those trying to survive.

"Gaza has moved beyond catastrophe," Dr. Al-Bursh declared. "People are roaming the streets helplessly.

Mothers are holding their dying children in their arms while the world remains shamelessly silent."

Further confirming the gravity of the crisis, the Director of the Humanitarian Emergency Center at Emory University (USA) analyzed images from Gaza and described the prevalence of the most dangerous forms of malnutrition among children.

This includes wasting, a condition that indicates dangerously low body weight for height due to extreme caloric deficiency over a short period.

"If this continues," he warned, "it will lead to long-term consequences—stunting, impaired cognitive development, weakened immunity, and lifelong learning disabilities."

While Gaza's children inch closer to death with each passing hour, Western powers, Israel, and their regional collaborators are weaponizing famine as part of a broader strategy to subjugate, expel, and erase the Palestinian people.

The engineered starvation is not just a humanitarian crisis—it is a calculated policy being executed through the collusion of occupation forces and traitorous regimes in the Islamic world.

This crisis is not the result of a lack of resources but of political betrayal.

These regimes, having surrendered the Ummah's wealth to colonial masters, now stand idly by as Gaza's children perish—devoid of any fear of divine accountability. Their only concern lies in clinging to fragile thrones, propped up by foreign powers.

Ghulam Reza Omidi

From isolation to integration: Railway development key to Afghanistan's economic growth

Afghanistan, once viewed as a landlocked and isolated nation, stands on the threshold of a major economic transformation, and railway development is at the heart of that change.

As regional trade expands and global connectivity becomes increasingly vital, developing an integrated railway network has become not just a logistical priority for Afghanistan but a strategic necessity.

The country's geographic location positions it as a potential transit hub between Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and China. However, for decades, the lack of efficient and modern transport infrastructure has limited this potential.

The expansion of railway lines connecting Afghanistan to neighboring countries like Uzbekistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan is a game-changer. It opens corridors for trade, reduces transport costs, and shortens delivery timelines for both imports and exports. In a significant stride toward regional integration and economic progress, officials from Afghanistan and Kazakhstan have signed a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth $500 million to collaborate on the construction of the Torghundi–Herat railway project. This landmark agreement marks a new chapter in Afghanistan's pursuit of economic self-reliance and

deeper connectivity with Central Asia.

The Torghundi–Herat railway, which aims to link western Afghanistan with Central Asian trade networks, is expected to play a pivotal role in transforming Afghanistan's transportation infrastructure, enhancing trade capacity, and stimulating industrial growth. The involvement of Kazakhstan, a key regional player with a robust railway network and investment experience, adds both credibility and momentum to the project. The Torghundi–Herat corridor serves as a vital segment of the envisioned regional railway grid that connects Afghanistan with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and eventually, with China and Europe.

See P4

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY
Saratan 21-1404 Saturday 12 July 2025 INo: 88-Vol: LXII

The Kabul Times – the state-run newspaper– welcomes your advertisements. You can send your ADs to the daily to help you connect with your customers.
+93 700 330 184 Arvagulzar833@gmail.com

USD 01	GBP 01	INR 1000	PKR 1000	EUR 01	IRR 1000	AED 01
AFN 69.25	AFN 94.04	AFN 808	AFN 234	AFN 81.11	AFN 0.78	AFN 18.85

SPORTS

Swimming theory seminar held in Balkh

A two-day swimming theory seminar was successfully held in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province.

The event was organized by the provincial representative office of the National Federation of Swimming and Water Sports, in collaboration with the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports of Balkh.

A total of 20 participants attended the seminar, which aimed to enhance both the basic and specialized knowledge of swimmers in the region.

The initiative focused on raising awareness about water safety, improving swimming techniques, and preventing drowning incidents, especially in public swimming pools and natural water bodies.

Throughout the seminar, experts provided theoretical training sessions covering a range of topics, including water safety principles, rescue techniques, and foundational swimming skills.

The event was part of a broader effort to promote water sports in Afghanistan while ensuring the safety and preparedness of individuals who frequent swimming areas during the summer months.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants received official certificates of completion from the Directorate of Sports, recognizing their successful participation and commitment to improving their skills in water safety and swimming.

Local officials praised the initiative, stating that such educational events are essential for building a culture of safe recreational swimming across the province.

Organizers also expressed hope that similar seminars would be expanded to other provinces in the future to promote the growth of swimming as a sport and a life-saving skill.

The Kabul Times

Futsal tournament wraps up in Helmand

A three-week-long futsal tournament featuring 20 teams has concluded in the Garmsir district of Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The competition was organized by the Helmand Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with the provincial Football Federation.

The final match saw a thrilling face-off between Ahmadi Yaran and Maiwand Lucky teams.

Both teams played fiercely, ending regular time in a 2-2 draw.

The game was ultimately decided through penalty kicks, where Ahmadi Yaran triumphed with a narrow 2-1 victory, earning the championship title.

Individual awards were also presented at the conclusion of the event. Shafiullah was named the tournament's Best Player, Bashir Ahmad received the award for Top Scorer, and Gul Ahmad was recognized as the Best Goalkeeper for his exceptional performance throughout the tournament.

Organizers stated that the tournament was aimed at promoting healthy engagement among youth and providing them with a platform to showcase their talent and teamwork.

The event garnered significant local interest, with fans supporting their respective teams enthusiastically over the course of the competition.

Officials highlighted the importance of such sporting events in strengthening social ties, improving physical health, and keeping young people away from negative influences.

The success of the tournament has encouraged organizers to plan similar initiatives in the future, hoping to expand participation and improve facilities for futsal and other sports across Helmand province. **The Kabul Times**

PSG secures decisive victory over Real Madrid to reach Club World Cup final

In a thrilling and high-stakes semifinal clash of the Club World Cup, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the French giants, delivered a dominant performance to eliminate Spanish powerhouse Real Madrid with a stunning 4–0 victory.

The match, which showcased PSG's tactical brilliance and attacking flair, left no room for doubt as they secured their place in the tournament's grand finale. From the opening whistle, PSG took control of the game, displaying fluid passes, coordinated team play, and clinical finishing. Real Madrid, despite their rich history and experience, struggled to find their rhythm and were outmatched in all areas of the pitch. The 4–0 scoreline reflected PSG's overwhelming dominance, with key players stepping up at crucial moments to dismantle Madrid's defense.

The win marks a historic moment for PSG, who have now earned their spot in the Club World Cup final for the first time in their history. The final showdown is set for Sunday night, where PSG will face off against English side Chelsea in what promises to be an electrifying encounter between two of Europe's footballing elites. With momentum on their side and confidence soaring, PSG enters the final as a formidable contender for the prestigious title. This emphatic win over Real Madrid not only solidifies PSG's position on the world stage but also sends a strong message to their future opponents: the French champions are ready to conquer.

The Kabul Times

Hanafi meets Afghan Consul General in Karachi, emphasizes support for Afghan refugees

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, met with Mawlavi Abdul Jabbar Takhari, the Consul General of Afghanistan in Karachi, emphasizing support for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Arg said in a statement the other day.

Speaking at the meeting, Takhari shared the consulate's activities, achievements, and programs, as well as the current conditions of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, with the deputy PM and assured that the consulate is making necessary efforts to address the challenges faced by Afghans in Pakistan, according to the statement. He also reaffirmed the consulate's commitment, in line with the leadership's directives, to strengthening diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan across various sectors. Meanwhile, Hanafi emphasized the deep

historical, cultural, religious, and social ties between the two neighboring Muslim countries and highlighted the importance of utilizing these commonalities to boost economic, political, and cultural cooperation. He reiterated the Islamic Emirate's commitment to supporting Afghan refugees in Pakistan and urged the consulate in Karachi to continue working actively to resolve their challenges.

The Kabul Times

From isolation to integration: Railway development...

From P3

Once operational, the railway will significantly reduce transport costs, shorten trade routes, and improve logistics efficiency for Afghan exports such as minerals, fruits, saffron, carpets, and dried goods, making them more competitive in regional and international markets.

The project is expected to generate thousands of jobs, both directly in railway construction and maintenance, and indirectly in logistics, trade, and supporting industries.

Local businesses, particularly in Herat and surrounding provinces, will benefit from improved market access, reduced transportation delays, and lower operational costs.

This kind of large-scale infrastructure project also helps attract foreign direct investment (FDI), encouraging the development of industrial parks, dry ports, and transit hubs.

Afghanistan's landlocked geography has long been a barrier to trade and economic integration.

The Torghundi–Herat railway is not just a national asset, but a strategic regional link. It strengthens Afghanistan's role as a land-bridge between Central Asia and South Asia, and as a transit hub in the emerging east-west trade corridors under initiatives like China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

This MoU signals Afghanistan's ongoing shift from conflict to construction, from isolation to integration.

The Islamic Emirate's emphasis on economic diplomacy, infrastructure development, and international cooperation is evident in this MoU.

Kazakhstan's engagement reflects growing regional confidence in Afghanistan's stability and economic potential.

The signing of the Torghundi–Herat railway MoU is more than a diplomatic gesture; it is a bold step toward a connected, competitive, and economically independent Afghanistan.

As construction progresses, the project is poised to reshape the country's trade landscape, uplift communities, and cement Afghanistan's role in the heart of Eurasian commerce.

This railway will not only carry goods but also carry the hopes of millions toward a more prosperous and stable future.

As, the railways stimulate growth beyond transportation. They create thousands of jobs, from construction and engineering to station management and logistics.

Local industries benefit from better access to raw materials and wider markets.

Agricultural goods, minerals, and manufactured products can reach buyers more quickly and affordably.

With greater efficiency, Afghan businesses can become more competitive on the global stage.

Reliable rail transport is one of the key factors foreign investors consider when entering emerging markets.

By modernizing and expanding its rail infrastructure, Afghanistan signals its readiness for international investment.

Industrial parks, dry ports, and special economic zones near railway lines can attract logistics firms, exporters, and processing plants, further accelerating economic development.

Currently, much of Afghanistan's international trade depends on costly road transport and foreign ports.

Railways reduce this dependency and give the country more control over its trade routes.

This strengthens national sovereignty and builds long-term economic resilience.

In addition to the economic growth, the infrastructure projects like railways also contribute to social stability.

When regions are connected, economic opportunities become more evenly distributed.

Trade fosters interdependence, reducing conflict and encouraging cooperation between provinces and neighboring countries.

Therefore, railway development in Afghanistan is more than steel and tracks; it is a symbol of progress, connection, and ambition.

From isolation to integration, Afghanistan's future prosperity lies in becoming a regional transport hub.

Investing in rail is investing in a more connected, stable, and economically empowered Afghanistan.

Railway development in Afghanistan is more than just infrastructure; it is a foundation for lasting transformation.

Every kilometer of track laid down is a step toward regional connectivity, economic resilience, and national stability.

By investing in railway projects, Afghanistan can reduce its dependence on costly road transport, improve access to domestic and international markets, and create thousands of jobs across construction, logistics, and trade sectors. As well as it empowers rural and urban communities alike by connecting them to opportunity and services.

Nesar Tariq

The negative impacts of social media...

From P3

For example, dance or pornographic videos that become popular encourage people to repost them to attract the attention of others.

This shows the weakness of personality, because people do not act based on their own thoughts, but according to the wishes of others.

In this environment, people create virtual personalities that have nothing to do with their real personality.

This contradiction causes mental disorder, stress, and anxiety.

A person who appears 'ideal' on social media passes the night with stress, loneliness, or jealousy, as the gap between his or her real and virtual life grows further and further. These social changes not only negatively affect the individual's personality, but also lead to the decline of mutual trust, mental health, and moral relationships in society.

If this type of use of social media continues, a society will be created in which lies, appearances, imitation, and self-promotion are considered the norm, and this way the truth, honesty, and the spirit of humanity will be eliminated.

In today's social media, almost all want to create artificial virtual personalities rather than real personalities.

This contradiction causes psychological unrest, instability, and mental fatigue.

In principle, honor, dignity and respect are achieved through piety, knowledge, honesty, and good behavior, not through virtual fame.

However, social media has distorted these concepts, and has made a person subject to the desires of the soul, which paves the way for a dangerous psychological disorder.

To summarize, social media, if used positively, can be a good tool for promoting Islamic values, but the current way of the use of it has often led to the decline of moral values. This requires the Ummah, parents, scholars, teachers, and other wise leaders to adopt a realistic, wise, and committed position towards social media so that our moral values do not fall victim to virtual misguidance.

This can be possible through knowledge, understanding, education, and piety, not through bans, empty slogans, and anger or violence.

If we want to preserve our moral values, we need to protect ourselves from the negative use of social media, pave the ground for its positive use, and save our personality, modesty, honor, and moral values from the huge wave of the virtual world. **End**

Mohammad Qasim Azzam